GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3135
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2016
Safety Audit at Level Crossings
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether safety audits at all level crossings are being conducted in Railways with a view to prevent rising number of accidents;
(b) if so, the details in this regard;
(c) whether any road map or comprehensive safety plan has been prepared to improve supervision, inspection, monitoring and periodical review of safety measures; and
(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)
(a) & (b): Safety audits are conducted by Zonal Railways on periodic intervals, comprising of multi-disciplinary teams of Senior Administrative Grade officers, on all Railway infrastructures including level crossings covering audit of assets, maintenance practices and safety protocols. The basic purpose of such audits is to identify weak areas in asset maintenance, safety procedures and systemic defects and to provide ways and means to prevent accidents. Zonal Railways also undertake other safety measures like safety drives from time to time - (i) to inculcate safety consciousness amongst staff and road users, (ii) to ensure availability of basic infrastructure at level crossings including whistle boards, road warning boards, speed breakers/rumble strips, adequate visibility etc. as per the laid down standards and (iii) to ensure observance of Gate working instructions at manned level crossings.
Zonal Railways also launch publicity campaigns to educate road users for observance of safe practices as prescribed in Motor Vehicles Act and Indian Railways Act through print and electronic media. Joint ambush checks involving civil authorities are undertaken to apprehend errant road users.
(c) & (d): All railway assets have a codified periodic schedule of inspections and safety checks by different levels of supervisors/officers at different levels. There are surprise checks by officers to ensure that such periodic inspections are not skipped.
Indian Railways have made a 5 year comprehensive Corporate Safety Plan (2015-2020), as announced by Hon'ble Minister of Railways in the Budget Speech of 2015, in which the need for strengthening such inspections has been emphasized. Indian Railways, while adopting newer technology/upgrading the infrastructure to achieve higher safety standards, do specify rigorous maintenance practices as appropriate for the technology. The staff handling such technology are also given proper training to equip and adapt themselves with newer technology.

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